Leicester, July 1. 1863.

Dear friend Webb,

I have 2 notes from you, since I wrote last — the first recd. June 25th, via Franklin Mills, Ohio, the other recd. yesterday, of the date of June 13., & containing a Bank of Ireland Draft for £8.3.8 (donations of Prof. Cairnes & friends, &c.) which I will cash, & pay as desired on going to Boston; — also a Note from Alfred, in which I believe he is quite right as to my account, and I mistaken. But I shall examine it all anew, & will let him hear. I greatly fear I shall not be able to answer his questions about our Govt.'s financial affairs very exactly. The U. S. Govt. is now laying the ~~the~~ first direct tax it has ever laid within my memory, and it is for the most part very cheerfully paid. ~~[illegible]~~. How it will be in future years I will not attempt to say. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Our State & Town Taxes have also ~~[illegible]~~ been increased from 50 to 75 per cent by the War, so that "Taxation" with us, heretofore nominal or very inconsiderable (~~[illegible]~~ the U. S. Tax being wholly paid by Customs Duties), will hereafter have a distinct & appreciable meaning, & be groaned over in something like British fashion, probably. I send a little paragraph, on which my eye lighted last evening in a Boston paper, which will shed a little light on Alfred's question as to the Government's means of paying its debt. This is the income of the direct tax, and is additional to the ordinary Customs. — Meantime we have no gold or silver in circulation. —

And as I wish to put herein one or two other newspaper slips, I will speak of them here. The one from Professor

Newman, (which you might not otherwise hear of, as it is from a private letter of his,) contains a remarkable prediction as to probable movements of the Rebel armies in Virginia, - which, when the letter arrived in Boston, had become fulfilled in a very decided manner. The other extract - from the *New York Evening Post* - is so sensible & able (as I think) that I have wished you to see it. The Evening Post is an old, original, *Democratic* Journal of those days when the Demo. Party had honesty & principle in it. But the "Post" *abandoned* the said party several years ago, on antislavery ground, &, while still claiming to be an unchanged Democratic paper, sustains Lincoln & the Administration & the Republican party *all it can*; - pretty hard work now-a-days, I must admit. I have thought, ever since reading Prof. Newman's Letter to Mr. Gladstone, that he, of all Englishmen, had said the best & wisest & truest things of our War; and the enclosed extract proves how closely & intelligently he has studied & apprehended the movements of the contending forces, & the real methods of success for us. - The *Evening Post's article* has a respectful allusion to Prof. Cairnes which I am sure you will like to see. I am very sorry to hear of his accident & the annoyance it gives him. - A somewhat similar misfortune has lately happened to Miss Cobbe, as Mary Estlin tells me, & she too has felt the need of going to the Continent for relief. - "But here comes our morning mail, and brings me a letter from Michigan, containing 3 photograph Cartes of "Sojourner Truth" - 2 of them for "Dublin friends" - *a gift* from Old Sojourner herself. She gets a friend to write for her, & says "she can only send her shadow and good wishes - hopes that she may meet you when we shall hunger & thirst no more, or need to care for the poor body. - Tell them I live by myself very nicely." So the Cartes may fill up, & prevent my sending you the newspaper slips.

Again our Northern military reputation is under a cloud - a temporary one I hope, but it looks dark now. Hooker, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, seems to have been completely outwitted by Lee, the Rebel General, who with nearly his entire army have put themselves into Maryland & Penna. again, & have been levying contributions & destroying an immense amount of property. In the very height of the crisis, Hooker is "relieved of his command" and another (Meade) appointed! Several contests have occurred among portions of the 2 armies but with no marked success as yet, although we are assured of large numbers of rebel prisoners being taken into Baltimore. Had Penna., as a State, responded promptly & generally to her Governor's call, the Rebel Army must certainly have been crushed between the upper & nether Millstones of the Penna. Militia & the Army of the Potomac. Now it is all painfully doubtful. Lee is an accomplished General,—far beyond any we have had opposed to him. The War drags slowly on. Alfred congratulates me on the capture of Vicksburg. But Vicksburg is not yet taken. Nor is Port Hudson. Nor is Richmond, nor Mobile, nor Charleston. My patience with the managers of our affairs often gives way. What they mean by allowing scores & scores of Regiments to come home & leave the service (as they have been doing for nearly 2 months) without putting any others in their places, I cannot tell. It is the madness of the moon. But if I am pained and mortified at the slow, temporising policy of the Administration, I am astonished and disgusted by the behaviour of M. D. Conway in writing to the Rebel Mason in London;—the correspondence is just published here. If not a forgery, it will kill Conway here as a trustworthy man or a friend of his country, or as a wise friend of the AntiSlavery cause. To think of the abominable *conceit*, in the first place, of his assumption of the office of an Envoy! and then of the *audacity* of recognizing Mason as one to be treated with or recognized for an instant by any loyal American or true Abolitionist! How completely Mason tolls him along, & then entraps him, & then holds him up to public gaze as fair game. It is insufferable that, at this juncture the Anti Slavery Cause should have to bear the burden of such transparent stupidity and conceit. I venture to say that not a single AntiSlavery person in America will uphold him—not one that will not repudiate his letters to Mason; as I am sure none ever authorized him in any such course.

In your late notes you write as if you supposed I thought that your Anti-Slavery heart had grown cold, and your sympathy with the cause declined. I wish you might be at rest on that point. I do not think so, nor ever did. If you are not a good, steadfast, & true friend to the Anti-Slavery Principle & Movement, it has none such in the world. Let that suffice. I think you excused & defended England & the English Govt. too far & too long; and your later letters indicate that you think so too. I am not disputing the fact of the English Commercial people being sound & right, & I exult in such noble men as Newman, [illegible], Cairnes, Mill, Hall, Forster, Hughes, &c. &c., but when we speak of England we mean the attitude of the whole Nation in the aggregate, Govt. & people. The former has been shamefully & basely remiss (to put it in a mild way) in regard to the piratical vessels built & fitted out in her ports to burn Amer. ships & destroy Amn. property; the latter have potentially sympathized from the first with the Slaveholders' rebellion, and have enormously aided them with moral & material support — not to be put on the same ground & level for an instant with bonâ fide, open sales of arms, &c to our Government, with which England has treaty-obligations. England has basely & shamefully co-operated with the Slaveholders. We know it, and it never can be forgotten. And we see, plainly enough, that he[illegible] to-day is only waiting until the French Despot gets ready to strike, to [illegible], and compel our Govt. to a recognition of the Piratical Confederacy, — if we are driven to that, — while our own Govt. will be far enough from being guiltless — the sin will lie chiefly at the doors of England & France.

I have also your note of May 30. to acknowledge — recd. June [illegible] at which time I was shut up at home, quite ill; — an illness from which I have not recovered. My strength is small, & my ability to work so little that I resigned 3 weeks since my General Agency. The Managers say they are not willing to receive it — & urge me again to take a season of rest, doing what I can, & no more. I am averse to that arrangement, deeming it good for neither party. In that letter you told me the "Advocate was dead." It took me wholly by surprise, and I could not but feel pain to think we should be greeted no more with its monthly appearance and its solid support. But I think, with you, that in the changed state of things in G. Britain there was no longer room for it to do the work it had been doing.

We hear often from Edward. He is very busy and keeps very well so far. Yrs. ever, S. May Jr.

Ms. B.1.6 v.9, p.97